

Application No. 09/787,953  
Response dated September 17, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of July 12, 2004

**REMARKS**

Claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 are pending in this application. No amendment has been made in this Response.

(1) Claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The outstanding Office Action asserts that it is unclear what is meant by “formed in the vicinity,” and the maximum profile line is not clear and should be defined in terms of an axis. However, as stated in the Office Action, it is clear that the terms, “formed in the vicinity,” could be interpreted as anywhere near the large end of the funnel. In addition, the specification describes that the maximum profile line is formed near the wide open end. See Figs. 2-4. At least to one skilled in the art, it is clear where is the vicinity of the wide open end. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested, and if the rejection is maintained, please clarify the statements at page 2, the last 5 lines of the Office Action.

(2) In view of the above, claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the

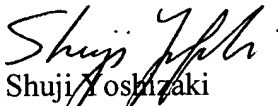
Application No. 09/787,953  
Response dated September 17, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of July 12, 2004

Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

  
Shuji Yoshizaki  
Limited Recognition

SY/mt  
1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: (202) 822-1100  
Fax: (202) 822-1111

Attachment: Limited Recognition

Q:\2000\001582\001582 amd-3.doc